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GOVERNOR

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Baker-Polito Administration Honors Commonwealth's Top Saltwater Anglers

BOSTON – February 21, 2017 – State fisheries officials presented 34 trophies to winners of the 2016 Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby at a ceremony Saturday at the New England Boat Show at the Boston Convention and Exposition Center. Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Commissioner George Peterson, Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Director David Pierce and DMF Assistant Director for Recreational Fisheries Mike Armstrong presented the awards.

"Recreational saltwater anglers support Massachusetts' valuable tourism economy and, through saltwater fishing permits, the management and conservation of our marine resources," **said Governor Charlie Baker**. "Our administration is proud to honor these anglers, and we encourage residents of all ages to get out on the open water and participate in this year's Saltwater Fishing Derby."

"This year's competition showcased the best of the Commonwealth's fishing community, and I commend all the skilled anglers who received awards," **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. "As the weather gets warmer, we encourage all Massachusetts residents and visitors to take advantage of the many activities our coastal towns offer."


"With over 1,200 miles of beautiful seashore, Massachusetts offers exceptional opportunities for saltwater fishing and other outdoor recreation on its coast," **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton**. "As a lifelong fisherman myself, I'm pleased to recognize these exceptional anglers for their fishing skills and outstanding catches."


"The Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby is a great way to encourage people to enjoy the tremendous fishing that Massachusetts marine environment provides," **said DFG Commissioner George Peterson**. "Congratulations to all the skilled anglers for their dedication to fishing and their accomplishment in making these remarkable catches."

DMF's Saltwater Fishing Derby awards pins to all qualifying entries in 21 species categories and presents trophies to anglers who landed the heaviest fish in each species category. Winners are chosen in three divisions: men, women and juniors (age 15 and younger). There were a total of 78 entries from anglers living in eight states in 2016. A new state record wahoo was also landed last year at 182 lbs., 12 oz. See chart below for the full list of winners:

Weigh-In Derby				
Name	Town of Residence	Division	Species	Heaviest Fish (lb. oz.)
Frank Mazzulli	Quincy	Men's	Black Sea Bass	5 lbs. 12 oz.
Crystle Calvin	Dartmouth	Women's	Black Sea Bass	4 lbs. 12 oz.
Jack Gulachenski	Southboro	Junior's	Black Sea Bass	6 lbs. 5 oz.
Tavin Beagle	Los Altos, CA	Men's	Bluefish	18 lbs. 10 oz.
Brenna McCoubrey	Marstons Mills	Women's	Bluefish	15 lbs. 12 oz.
John Clark	Marion	Junior's	Bluefish	12 lbs. 4 oz.
Brian Nunes-Vais	Morris Plains, NJ	Men's	Bonito	9 lbs. 12 oz.
Tammy King	Nantucket	Women's	Bonito	10 lbs. 2 oz.
Alex Avila	Sandwich	Men's	Dolphin	24 lbs. 5 oz.
Joanne Cameron	Mattapoisett	Women's	Dolphin	17 lbs.
Frances Clay	Osterville	Women's	False Albacore	10 lbs. 6 oz.
Dylan Kadison	Tisbury	Junior's	False Albacore	11 lbs. 13 oz.
Emilson Kruger Leite	Gatiterburg, MD	Men's	Fluke	15 lbs. 6 oz.
Keely Ahlstrom	Orleans	Women's	Fluke	13 lbs. 13 oz.
William Seaberg	Sudbury	Junior's	Fluke	11 lbs. 15 oz.
Jeff Lema	Nantucket	Men's	Halibut	89 lbs.
Kay Starzynski	Wheatfield, IN	Women's	Halibut	102 lbs.

Bill Potter	Vineyard Haven	Men's	King Mackerel	6 lbs. 14 oz.
Matt Kelly	Boxford	Men's	Scup	2 lbs. 8 oz.
Beverly Bergeron	West Tisbury	Women's	Scup	2 lbs. 13 oz.
Joseph Pearle	Wareham	Junior's	Scup	2 lbs. 9 oz.
Michael Jones	Carver	Men's	Striped Bass	53 lbs. 14 oz.
Amy Burrell	Mashpee	Women's	Striped Bass	51 lbs. 10 oz.
Michael Bridges	Barnstable	Junior's	Striped Bass	49 lbs. 6 oz.
John Pettersen	Old Lyme, CT	Men's	Tautog	9 lbs. 14 oz.
Ashley Brown	Wareham	Women's	Tautog	10 lbs. 13 oz.
Sam Jaxtimer	Osterville	Men's	Thresher Shark	405 lbs. 5 oz.
Derek Wittkamper	Rowley	Men's	Wahoo	182 lbs. 12 oz.
Rob Thompson	Marshfield	Men's	Winter Flounder	4 lbs. 13 oz.
Steve Dowler	Vineyard Haven	Men's	Yellowfin Tuna	91 lbs. 13 oz.
Jack Willis	Barnstable	Men's	Yellowfin Tuna	92 lbs.
Catch and Release Derby				
Name	Town of Residence	Species	Length (inches)	
Ray Jarvis	Berkley	False Albacore	28 inches	
Frank Mazzulli	Quincy	Striped Bass	47 inches	
Mark Forrester	Quincy	Winter Flounder	20 inches	

The annual Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby runs from January 1 through November 30 and is free to enter. [Each Derby has its own set of rules](#)  3MB and target species. To qualify for the weigh-in category of the Saltwater Fishing Derby, entries must be caught by hook and line and weighed in at DMF-certified weigh stations. Anglers participating in the catch and release category of the derby are required to submit a picture of their fish on a measuring device. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby.

DFG officials ask anglers to practice responsible fishing. DMF's [Responsible Angler Practices Brochure](#)  instructs anglers in how to properly handle and release fish, how to use tackle that minimizes unintended harm to fish, and reminds anglers to minimize fight time, properly dispose of trash and unwanted tackle, to use circle hooks, wide gap hooks, and barbless hooks, and to take steps to protect habitat while fishing.

DFG is responsible for promoting the conservation and enjoyment of the Commonwealth's natural resources. DFG carries out this mission through land protection and wildlife habitat management, management of inland and marine fish and wildlife species, and ecological restoration of fresh water, salt water, and terrestrial habitats. DFG promotes enjoyment of the Massachusetts environment through outdoor skills workshops, fishing festivals and other educational programs, and by enhancing access to the Commonwealth's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.

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